

APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
**Weekly Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)**  
**June 3, 2009**

**Detection Trapping Pest Results (Adult LBAM):**

Source: Ryan Momberger - Data Manager

Source: CDFA/PHPPS

Report Date:	6/4/2009 Positive Totals by Year/YTD									
County	2007	2008	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09*	Jun-09	YTD	Total
Alameda	46	1528	430	796	1969	2457	2416	6	8074	9648
Contra Costa	16	1283	184	248	1101	590	515	0	2638	3937
Los Angeles	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Marin	62	927	46	153	707	976	1002	0	2884	3873
Monterey	574	5163	271	337	408	848	602	0	2466	8203
Napa	0	13	2	10	10	10	15	0	47	60
San Benito	0	9	0	1	3	0	2	0	6	15
San Francisco	3959	16001	2853	3969	6403	1149	292	0	14666	34626
San Luis Obispo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
San Mateo	73	1862	536	416	142	223	336	0	1653	3588
Santa Barbara	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Santa Clara	12	128	9	11	29	72	266	1	388	528
Santa Cruz	6911	15439	1388	1990	3306	3936	2878	1	13499	35849
Solano	7	28	2	4	1	12	6	0	25	60
Sonoma	0	21	0	2	3	8	25	0	38	59
Ventura	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Yolo	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2
Project Totals	11662	42408	5721	7938	14083	10281	8356	8	46387	100457

- **Survey**
  - Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, in **17** counties.

- A total of **19,036** pheromone-baited traps are placed in and around retail and production nurseries, at ports of entry, and in the open environment and are being inspected bi-weekly.
- Visual inspections of all nurseries located within 1.5 miles from any traps with confirmed LBAM are conducted for the presence of any life stages.
- **Identification and Diagnostics**
  - A total of **100,457** moths have been confirmed to date as LBAM **(2007-09): 11662 in 2007 and 42,402 in 2008.**
  - Total confirmed “positive” larvae/pupae/egg masses collected in nurseries to date is 2,259.**
  - LBAM immature life stages, including larvae and pupae have been found in a total of **98** nurseries, cut flower or greenery farms in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma counties. Infested nurseries have the option to treat and be re-inspected as part of the regulatory requirements.

### **Operational Update:**

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**
  - The TWG met the week of May 5, 2008 in San Francisco to review program progress. Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) was placed on a fast track for further development and incorporation into the overall eradication efforts.
- **Program Resources**
  - A total of **181** personnel are on-site (**138** CDFA, and **43** APHIS) assuming various roles within the emergency program structure.
- **Regulatory Actions**
  - CDFA, APHIS, and County personnel continue to conduct inspections and certification of host commodities in the quarantine areas as required by State LBAM regulations and by the Federal Quarantine Order.
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  - To date, a total of **1,991** compliance agreements have been issued to **3,766** sites located within the quarantine area requiring regular inspections of all nursery stock and other host materials.
- **Treatment**
  - Nurseries with host plants that are confirmed as infested with LBAM larvae or pupae have the option of treating or destroying infested plants before shipping outside the quarantine area.

- 2009 treatment plans –
  - o Twist-ties are being used to eradicate LBAM infestations in outlying areas.
  - o Preparations continue for the Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) demonstration project. The goal of the demonstration project is to develop, adapt and validate mass-rearing, irradiation, handling, release, and evaluation technologies to lay the groundwork for future implementation of an operational SIT program for the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM).
- **Environmental Assessment and Monitoring**

A Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for the LBAM mating disruption (pheromone) program was written and open for public comment in February 2008. Due to various lawsuits and potential changes in program control technology, no decision was made whether to proceed or not with the actions described in the EA.

#### **Trade Update:**

- CFIA removed the phytosanitary certificate requirement for citrus, effective August 18, 2008.
- On March 24, 2008, Mexico verified phytosanitary compliance measures required for importation of LBAM host products originating from California and Hawaii, including LBAM regulated areas. Compliance measures include a monitoring system, integrated pest management, products sent in closed containers and sealed at origin.
- On January 25, 2008 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) posted the 3rd revision to D-07-03 - Plant Protection (Phytosanitary) Import Requirements to Prevent the Entry of Epiphyas postvittana (Walker) (light brown apple moth). The directive outlines requirements for the importation of host commodities into Canada.
- China and South Korea have made inquiries about the LBAM program.
- Chile has imposed restrictions because of LBAM. An additional AD is required for all LBAM host material declaring that it did not come from a quarantine area.

#### **Communication and Outreach:**

- The Joint Information Center (JIC) continues to provide information and field questions regarding LBAM program plans in California.

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#### **Background:**

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen near Berkeley in Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths had been captured in a blacklight trap on his property.

- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Trap inspections began March 7, 2007.
- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, confirmed through morphological testing that the two samples submitted were, in fact, LBAM.
- CDFA established on April 20, 2007 a LBAM quarantine of at least 182 square miles in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Marin and Santa Clara counties. The quarantine is expected to expand to include Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties.
- APHIS issued a LBAM Federal Quarantine Order on May 2, 2007, requiring inspection and certification of all nursery stock and host commodities from eight counties in California, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties.
- A Technical Working Group (TWG) consisting of subject matter experts from Australia, New Zealand, and the United States was established to provide APHIS and CDFA technical recommendations. The TWG toured the infested region on May 16 and concluded with a two-day meeting on May 17-18 in San Jose, California. Recommendations designed to provide short and long-term plans to contain, control, and eradicate LBAM in California were forwarded to APHIS and CDFA.
- The light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, is a native pest of [Australia](#) and is now widely distributed in New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia. Although it was reported in Hawaii in the late 1800s, the LBAM find in California is the first on the US mainland.
- LBAM has a host range in excess of 120 plant genera in over 50 families, including nursery stock, cut flowers, fruits, and vegetables.
- LBAM could cause an estimated \$160 to \$640 million annually in crop damage and control costs if it spreads to agricultural production area in the 15 affected counties and up to \$2.4 billion in California.

